

NOE The Valley Voice

24th STREET IS A GREAT PLACE TO DO ANYTHING

We Begin

BY DAVID SNYDER

If you live in Noe Valley, no matter if you moved here yesterday or 30 years ago, you probably have wondered what makes this area so remarkably unique. Most residents consider Noe Valley a "dream realized" neighborhood after having lived elsewhere in highly touted, so-called communities. Residents here actually care for and take an interest in the lives and concerns of each other. There is a pride in the neighborhood and its neighbors.

NOE VALLEY. WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE LIVE HERE? WHO ARE WE?

Noe Valley does not have a homogeneous population; in fact we are a microcosm of the City. We are the professionals, the shopkeepers, the artists, the laborers, the politicians, and a diverse mixture of ages, colors and life styles. Perhaps this is why Noe Valley is unique in a city whose hallmark is the expression of individuality. Noe Valley is, and will remain to be, primarily a long term residential community. We are a population with dreams, opinions, ideas, creativity, and concerns. We are a community struggling with change, yet we are highly stable.

Idle Chatter:

"Wouldn't it be great if we had a newspaper—a forum to express our beliefs, to explore our history?"

Too often ideas of this sort are unrealized. This time the idea has become concrete. The NOE VALLEY VOICE is born.

Noe Valley, we have discovered, is the home of many talented writers and artists waiting for a medium to present their work. This issue was conceived and produced in less than a month. Our advertisers have all responded with excitement at the opportunity to advertise their shops and services in a paper geared to the local needs.

Articles planned for future issues include a multi-part history of Noe Valley, District 5 politics, the high cost of home buying, crime, reviews of shops, restaurants and services, sports and activities, interviews with residents who are significant to the history and development of the area, a multi-part article on the business associations, and a community open forum.

This paper is conceived as a Community forum to meet the needs of our neighborhood. Our objectives are fourfold:

- 1) To provide news and information on the businesses, services, and individuals in Noe Valley.
- 2) To document our history in an area individual and integral to the city of San Francisco.
- 3) To provide a forum for the residents of Noe Valley to express their opinions of what the neighborhood could and should be.
- 4) To provide a medium for poets, writers and artists to publish their work.

If we are to continue this effort we need your help. We need your interests and opinions in the form of articles, statements, stories, poems, drawings and photographs. We need your financial support in the form of advertising and contributions. We believe that Noe Valley is capable of supporting a community newspaper. That is why we have come this far. To date, the response has been nothing but encouraging.

In order for the Noe Valley Voice to become a responsive community newspaper, we need your ideas and articles. In our second issue we will begin the Community Crosstalk column. Community Crosstalk will be an open dialogue to present your stand on any of the issues relevant to developing or protecting lifestyles.

We intend to continue free distribution of this paper. This issue has been partially financed by advertisers with the balance paid for by the staff. We sincerely hope that you will agree with us that the Noe Valley Voice is a viable adventure and will join us.

Our advertising rates are nominal. Our anticipated circulation is 3000 copies which will be distributed primarily in Noe Valley and the rest of District Five. Discounts will be given for both pre-payment and multi-issue contracts.

These are our beginnings. We are proud of this issue and look forward to serving the needs of our neighborhood and the individuals living here. We hope that you enjoy our maiden effort and provide feedback on how we can better suit your needs and be more responsive to the community.

City Curbs Business On 24th Street

BY COREY MICHAELS

William Murphy, a one-time tough nose San Francisco cop who turned in his badge for a doctorate, was cruising the second floor of City Hall waiting for the chance to use his courtroom histrionics against those Noe Valley anti-business upstarts. Murphy was born and grew up in Noe Valley. He hadn't lived in Noe Valley for 23 years, but he still owned the property that's leased to the Finnegan's Wake watering hole, and he wasn't going to let any change in the zoning laws hurt his money maker without a helluva good fight.

There were a hundred or so other people waiting to testify on a proposal before the Planning Commission that would control the growth of new business on 24th street. All they could do was mill around, discussing the proposal, because the planning commission was running later than the J Church. The more Murphy waited, the more he found himself being swayed by the arguments in favor of the proposal. By the time the public hearing got underway two and one-half hours late, Murphy was firmly in the "enemies" camp.

"I was talking to my childhood chums, who are still living in Noe Valley", Murphy said. "They want Noe Valley to remain stable. They don't want the noise and pollution and the traffic jams." What they don't want is for the 24th Street strip to become Union Street.

Those upstarts that initially scared Murphy were the Noe Valley Neighbors for Actions, Friends of Noe Valley, and the East and West of Castro Improvement Association. In February, they had petitioned the Planning Commission for a downzoning reclassification that would slow the rapid growth of shops swarming into the area. Without the change, Noe Valley would lose its unique neighborhood character.

Twenty-fourth street is a blend of ground floor bars, restaurants, groceries, and specialized, neighborhood oriented shops. The second and third floors of the buildings are residential apartments.

The Valley's uniqueness poses a paradox. The area currently is zoned C-2, which allows a wide range of

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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Noe Library Springs Into Action

BY BILL HILL

Many things are happening at the Noe Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library System and few have anything to do with lending books. "People have new expectations of us", says Margaret Wyatt, Senior Librarian and Children's Specialist.

To prove her point, Wyatt launched into an enthusiastic description of the garden that's coming to bloom behind the library. Yes, a garden. Two and a half years ago when she came to the branch, from the Western Addition Library, the back yard was paved with asphalt. Not thrilled with what she saw, Wyatt went to work. With the aid of Mayor Moscone she was able to secure a slice of federal money, under a program for community development.

Enter, the willing and able backs of the men and women of the Friends of Noe Valley, out went the asphalt and into the newly tilled soil went the seeds of vegetables, flowers and herbs.

With the assistance of Roberta Greifer, Junior Adult Librarian and Goldman, Library Technician, Margaret Wyatt is determined to meld the branch library into an integral part of the community.

To this point, the white walls that line the foyer and the staircase are put to good use. Under labels designated drama, music, art, are printed flyers that announce a variety of coming events in the neighborhood and throughout the city.

The library also offers publications of many types that the people of Noe Valley might find useful; they range from the summer school catalog for City College to

bus schedules of the Muni lines that serve Noe Valley. At present there is one meeting room available for community use, with plans in the works to add another.

The popular Pre-School Story Hour will resume in July. Held on Tuesdays at 10:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. the program is open to all children between the ages of 3 and 5. The children are entertained and instructed with fingerplays, poems, stories and films.

Also in the works for summer is a weekly series featuring community people with interesting skills who are willing to share some of their time with the children. Lined up are a beekeeper, underwater photographer and puppeteer to name a few.

Wyatt feels that this is a very logical program with great potential because Noe Valley is lucky to have such a rich, diverse, and talented population.

A small, dynamic dark-haired woman burning with enthusiasm Margaret Wyatt is determined to make the Noe Valley Library more than just a place where books are checked out. A resident of Noe Valley for 10 years, she wants the people of the community to look upon the library as a place that is central and important in the function of community affairs.

"Even though our funding is much less than some branches, we get more impact per dollar than any other branch", she said.

For those who don't know, this very different library is located at 451 Jersey St. - it's open on Tuesdays through Saturdays. Phone 285-2788 for information regarding library services.

STREET FAIR

The sixth annual Noe Valley Street Fair will be held Sunday, June 12 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Twenty-fourth Street will be blocked off between Church and Castro for crafts people, artisans, and vendors showing and selling their wares.

The Friends of Noe Valley and the Noe Valley Merchant's Association have voted against having amplified music at this year's street fair. The entertainment will be milder this year than in the past years and there will be no musician's stage. Instead, the entertainment will happen in and among the people, and the confirmed entertainment thus far includes a mariachi band, belly dancer, and Professor Gismo, the one-man band.

Because the fall weather is so unpredictable, the fair is being held in June rather than September this year. As those who turned out for last year's street fair in Sept. remember, the 1976 fair took place under grey skies and intermittent drizzle.

Booth spaces are still available for artists, crafts people, and vendors. Applications for booths are available at Attic Salt, 4005 24th St., Cathexis, 3927 24th St., and the Other Side at 3870 24th St. The fee is \$20.00 for street artists and \$50.00 for food vendors, and the deadline for turning in applications is June 6.

For more information on the fair, call 826-0702.

Neighborhood Groups

FIRST OF A SERIES

DEBORAH PHELAN

Within the past few years, members of the Noe Valley community have used their common concern over outstanding issues in the area as a springboard for the establishment of divergent organizations.

Numbered among them are the Friends of Noe Valley, the Noe Valley Neighbors for Action, and the long-established Noe Valley Merchant's Association. Although all are dedicated to improving living conditions in the neighborhood, each has its own particular projects and, at times, quite different opinions on what is vital to the area's prosperity.

Barbara Biahoff, a 24th Street resident and a spokesperson for the Noe Valley Neighbors for Action believes a primary goal is maintaining the current balance between business and residences in Noe Valley and preserving middle and low income housing.

"Noe Valley is recognized as being the last holdout for the 'neighborhood-type neighborhood' in San Francisco," she said. "If we lose that, we lose the whole flavor of Noe Valley."

NVNA sprung into existence last year as a direct result of the eviction of four families from 3961-3 24th Street when Joel Cooperman purchased the building with plans to convert it into a four-unit shopping structure, Biahoff said. Margy Ortiz, one of the group's founding members,

circulated petitions, organized concerned residents, and eventually the issue was brought to City Hall.

Her mission was successful. The City Planning Commission ordered the upper two units of 3961-3 24th Street retained for residential use and told Coopersmith to also consider using the empty basement as a residential unit. Accordingly, only one residence was lost.

"Our main interest is in maintaining low to middle income housing," Biahoff explained. "We got back three residences but they are not aimed to low-to-middle income families. So it was a sweet-sour victory."

There have been 11 evictions in the past year due to business expansion, according to Biahoff.

The six core members of the NVNA hold meetings twice a month. They have no specific schedules, but meet when there are relevant issues. Although about 30 people attend each meeting, the organization is particular about who they want in attendance.

"We are looking for dedicated members," Biahoff explained. "They've got to want to work for the goals we have in mind. There's nothing glamorous about it. We seem to be the earth shakers."

For information on meetings, Biahoff can be reached at 282-3197, or through Rick Leavy at 824-8579.

NEXT: FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY

Despite growing concern within Noe Valley that the area may be changing from a quiet neighborhood environment into a more commercially based locale, new businesses are steadily sprouting up on 24th St. In the past six months, five new atores and two new restaurants have made their homes on 24th St.

The new proprietors find the neighborhood atmosphere of Noe Valley especially appealing. Fred Papele, owner of Lila's Sandals, said he liked the feeling of a commercial street. It's not too commercial. It still has the feeling of a neighborhood." Sue Donton, who owns Sun Sue Leather Design, said she gets a little upset when she sees articles about Noe Valley in city-wide publications. "I don't want anyone else to know about it," she said. She and her husband, Jim, chose the area for their store because, "It's our neighborhood, too, and we liked it."

Ron Roguski, part owner of the Jersey Antique Store and a Potrero Hill resident, said he and his partners chose Noe Valley for their location because, "we heard the area was slowly changing from a hippie-type neighborhood to a neighborhood of young people with money." Restaurateur Leonidas Rodriguez who owns the Gitana restaurant did not want to cater to tourists, and, he said, "of all the people I talked to, I never heard anything derogatory about Noe Valley."

The new shops are:
* * *
Sun Sue Leather Design, 3961 24th St., (open 11-6 Tues.-Sat.) is a leather store specializing in garments made of soft leather. Owner Sue Donton, who has been designing and making leather garments for three years, deaigns and sews coats, pants, gauchos skirts, hats, purses, and cushions of soft leather, while her husband and co-owner, Jim, does the cutting. Ms. Donton takes a great deal of pride in her work, which is exquisitely clean and precise. "I've been designing since I opened my eyes, I guess," she said. "My mother sewed and she was in fine arts and my father was a carpenter, so I had a love of things well constructed." Prices range from \$8 for handbags to \$150 for custom jackets.
* * *

Located in the same renovated Victorian as Sun Sue is the Jersey Antique Store, 3961A 24th St. (open 10-6 Wed.-Sat.). This store, so named because the majority of the furniture was constructed in the New Jersey pine barrens is a veritable paradise for antique collectors, lovers, and admirers. Late eighteenth and early nineteenth century American primitive furniture is featured, with gate-leg tables made of cherrywood going for \$550, spinning wheels for \$175 and \$250, and an elegant four poster rope bed for \$650. Jersey also sells antique tools and fireplace paraphenelia, such as shovels for baking and trammels, which are used to secure a hanging kettle in the

fireplace. The most expensive item in the store is a walnut corner cupboard for \$1050, which stands about six-and-a-half feet high and is characterized by incredibly detailed carpentry. Not every item is so highly priced: antique wooden spoons are sold for the modest prices of \$1. and \$2.50.

* * *
Brigitte's, 3845 24th St. (open 11-6, Mon.-Fri., 10-6, Sat. and 12-5 Sun.) features kitchen ware and gourmet cookware and offers a variety of dishes, wine glasses, cutlery, trays, candles, stuffed toya, and a small assortment of jewelry. Most of the items in the store are imported from Europe, and, although the merchandise is not dangerously unique, a leisurely browse is well worthwhile.

* * *
Lila's Sandals, 4102 24th St. (open 11-6:30, Wed.-Sat. and 12-4:30 Sun.) is a leather store whose best sellers are custom sandals, boots, and shoes. They also sell handbags, belts, buckles, jackets, and leather barrets. Everything, excluding the commercially made belt buckles is hand-made and crafted with supreme artistic simplicity. Owner Fred Papele, who has been working with leather for eight years, does most of the leather work himself, although he buys belts and wallets from other craftsmen. Prices range from \$1.50 for leather barrets to \$175 for jackets.

* * *
Small Press Traffic, 3841B 24th St. (open 12-6 Tues.-Sat. and 1-5 Sun.) is a non-profit bookstore, being funded by a grant from Interaection, a center for religion and the arts. It specializes in obscure literary works of poetry, drama, and fiction, and all works are taken on consignment from small press publishers and writera throughout the country.

* * *
Gitana restaurant, 4288 24th St. (open 5:30-10:30 Tues.-Sun.), named for the female gypsy, is a Cuban restaurant serving four course meals which include soup, salad, entree, and desert for \$5.75 and \$6.25. The food is delicious, the portions are monstrous, and the atmosphere is serenely comfortable, with filigreed ceramic candles decorating the tables and soft classical music.

* * *
The Noe Valley Bar and Grill, 3945 24th St. (open for lunch, 11:30-5:30, Mon.-Fri., dinner 6-10 Mon.-Sat. and 6-9 Sun. brunch from 11 A.M. Sat. and Sun.) serves salads, sandwiches, and a few hot entrees for lunch, full course dinners, and eggs benedict, ham and eggs, and omelettes for brunch. The food is not exceptional enough to justify the extravagant prices (\$2.50 for ham-burgers, \$6.95 for scampi) and the atmosphere smacks of Union Street.

BY CLAUDIA G. HYSLOP

Noe Valley Cinema Opens Season; Foreign Films Scheduled

Have you heard the good news? There's a new show in town, The Noe Valley Cinema. No, it's not an ordinary movie theatre, but rather a most interesting organization recently formed to provide refreshing entertainment for the residents of Noe Valley.

Approximately six months ago Steven Michaela, who has proficient knowledge and experience in filming, joined together with Cary Friedman and Jackie Ruben, to form The Noe Valley Cinema. With the help and strong support of Patrick Pace and Deb Polfus they have put together a schedule of films being shown each week at the James Lick Junior High School. The schedule conaists bacically of feature films grouped with animated and independent films. The Noe Valley Cinema generally showa their selected films every Saturday night at 8 PM. The price is \$1.50 or you can purchase a memberahip card which entitles you to four shows for \$1.

In talking with Michaels, he mentioned that the organization would welcome individuals also involved in filming to show their own films and discuss with the viewers the techniques involved in film production.

The Noe Valley Cinema is working for the community and they can offer many valuable services to the residents of Noe Valley if we give them encouragement by showing our interest in their organization. They need volunteers to help sell tickets and to set up their equipment. They would also welcome our ideas and suggestions that would assist them in the succesa of the Noe Valley Cinema and towards developing a better community to live in.

Additionally, Michaels haa started a children's workshop which is another project behind the Noe Valley Cinema. This workshop enables children to learn about making films and become involved in creating their own. In fact, the children who have attended the workshop just completed their first film.

The workshop facilities are set up at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street and more information can be obtained by contacting the Library. The workshop has only been in operation for a few weeks but it offers a good opportunity for the children in Noe Valley to learn, be creative and become an active part in the growth of the community they live in.

The Noe Valley Cinema is a community oriented organization and not only do they want to provide the residents with enjoyable entertainment, they also want to share the structural aspects of their work with thoea who are interested in learning what filming is all about.

BY KAREN L. BRIGGS



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"Rack 'em up, honey"



BY DEBORAH PHELAN

I admit it. I've got the bug. Pool-playingitis. I fantasize the "perfect pool game", I sink the eight with a long green shot on an imaginary pool table. In my sleep I vie with Minnesota Fats. And if I were starring in a current television series of "The Honeymooners", Trixie and I would be out every night on 24th Street shooting pool with the girls while Ralph and Norton did the dishes.

Let's face it, I'm hooked. I play pool every day, several times a day, sometimes several hours a day. I couldn't tell you how often I've laid down a book because I've heard the sound of pool balls clattering in my head; how many quarters I've slipped into the slot just to watch them splatter across the table on the break, I love the game, it obsesses me.

I have this dream of someday being as good as Marsha Mason when she hustled those sex-starved sailors in the brawly barrooms of "Cinderella Liberty". But mostly I'm just mediocre--mediocre with occasional flashes of brilliance. It's enough to sustain me; not enough to set me apart as a shark or a hustler. Admittedly, I'm a rookie. Most women are. Until recently pool was considered a man's sport.

Wondering what neighborhood night life is like for a pool shooting woman, I decide to tour the taverns to find out. On the circuit of Noe Valley's twenty-five cent pool tables, I discover that in ever increasing numbers, women are racking, breaking and shooting with a dexterity which threatens male supremacy in the game. The Jury Room has its own women's pool team competing in the San Francisco Tavern Pool Association. At a "Cork and Bottle Pool Tournament" recently, there were almost as many women in the competition as men. Finnegan's Wake has just formed its own women's team, Finnegan's Follies.

The Cork and Bottle. Hostile territory for a woman wielding a pool cue as her only weapon. It is dark and depressing, almost raunchy, with hard, seasoned drinkers staring deeply into the depths of their misery, hardly mindful of one another or the musicless and bleak atmosphere, around them.

I stop in early on a Thursday evening. The only people interested in shooting are the bartender and a slightly intoxicated Muni driver who, having just lost, is now grumbling incoherently into his drink. "Okay lady, rack 'em." The bartender grins, encouragingly.

I position the balls in the rack and select a 19 ounce stick from the myriad assortment of cheap cues which adorn the back wall, striking up a flow of cheerful chatter with my opponent. I ask him if many women come into this bar to shoot.

"Oh sure." He scatters the balls, sinking one of each. "Lots of them, mostly wives and girlfriends. They come in later though." He shoots and misses. The game proceeds sloppily as we discuss the upcoming tournament. The first and second prize winners both get \$40. pool cues.

I daydream all the time about having my own stick. I'd carry it with me, always prepared. When you're shooting with your own stick, people take you seriously; they know you mean business. I flash for a moment on the idea of entering the tournament. But no, I'd never win.

The bartender cuts the three into the side pocket, snapping my attention back to the game. Eventually, I emerge victorious but through no show of skill on my part. My opponent scratches sinking the eight. I relinquish my rights to the table and a subsequent match with the Muni driver. Shooting here isn't rewarding. There's no excitement, no energy, no thrill.

I walk up the street to the Peaks on Castro. It's friendlier, a little more alive. There's conversation, some laughter, and someone feeds a quarter into the juke box to hear the "Theme from Rocky".

Having just been defeated by a taxi driver who's a regular here, a young woman sits down beside me. She is still holding onto her stick and her name, ironically enough, is Marsha.

"He's good," she admits, gesturing towards the champ. "Real good. He can beat anyone in here. He takes his time but usually he wins",

We discuss men's attitudes towards women shooters and when I mention how their sometimes condescending attitude irks me, her face lights up.

"Men's condesention is a challenge," she says. "I'm pretty good and I can usually hold the table. When I win they're astonished and I just love that. I thrive on the challenge"

Some young shark from different stamping grounds dethrones the reigning taxi driver, sending him back to his Oly, and it's my turn, I'm a little nervous--unfamiliar territory, an unknown male champ. My palms are sweaty. It's enough to unnerve anyone.

He breaks and gets the high balls. Then it's my turn. I sink the seven in the corner and come around with the cue ball for position on the three. An easy shot. I rush it and the ball hangs precipitously on the hinge of the pocket but doesn't drop.

The battle continues down to the eight. On my shot, I decide to bank it along one rail into the right corner pocket, despite the taxi driver's encouragement that a cut to the near right would be easier. I scratch.

Heading for the door, I hear the taxi driver proclaim: "That's what women's lib is all about. You can't take a normal shot. You try an impossible shot."

Friday night at Finnegan's--the place to be, the hot-spot of 24th Street if you're a young pool shooter, dart enthusiast or enjoy a multi-mooded juke box. The list on the pool players' blackboard curls into two columns and people parade continually from front to back to gauge their place in the standings. You've got to be good to shoot here, good or very patient because if you loose you might have to wait for hours before being called again. At Finnegan's pool is a passion.

There's a great comraderie among the women who shoot here regularly. They flock near the table when a friend is playing, cheer her good shots, moan over her near misses. When a woman wins a roar goes up, she gets hugs all around. Someone invariably buys her a drink. It's happening more often now and the men no longer take a woman challenger lightly. She's someone to contend with.

"We have some far-out women shooters here," one man comments with a tinge of pride in his voice. "I play them just the same as I play men. You have to or they sneak up on you, get ahead before you realize what's happening."

I sign up and since there's plenty of time a friend and I decide on a warmup match a few doors down at the Jury Room. Waylon Jennings croons to the crowd, the table is empty. Most of the activity centers around the "fcosball" tables.

"The women are more interested in pool here than the men are," I am informed by George, the bartender. "They play fcosball, table soccer. If you want to talk about pool, talk with Mary Anne. She's on the women's team."

Mary Anne isn't too interested in talking, she's about to leave but she does offer, when asked how she feels about shoot against the opposite sex: "I like shooting against men. There's more competition. They play better, and it makes me feel better when I win because they think they can beat me." I practice for a half-hour, unchallenged.

Back at Finnegan's my name is called. Adrenalin flowing, alive with nerve-taut anticipation, I rack the balls and grab my favorite stick. I'm up against one of the best in the bar but he doesn't make anything on the break. It's an open table. I evaluate the situation quickly. Stripes. A clear shot on the eleven. I line it up carefully, shoot, miss. The ball careens erratically to the left.

My opponent doesn't give me another chance. He banks the two into the left side pocket. The six drops in the corner. A spectacular combination off the seven sinks the three and he plays the one off my 13, tipping it into the far right corner pocket.

I take a sip of my wine, thinking he'll surely miss on the four. It's nestled against the rail hiding behind the 11, but he makes one of those miraculous bank shots I see only in my dream game and could never execute, cutting it into the left corner.

I'm devastated. The last is easy. He slips the seven in the side, forces the five in a far corner hole and homes in on the eight with a gleam in his eye. It goes.

"Thanks for the game." He leaves me holding my cue, wide-eyed in defeat.

The list's too long to sign up for another game, so I leave and head towards home thinking "If only I had aimed a little farther to the right...If only I had..."

But suddenly the fantasies flower again and I'm walking into a pool hall where Jackie Gleason has just defeated Paul Newman. I open my case, screw the two ends of my 19 ounce stick together and with a cocky confidence tell Gleason:

"Rack 'em".

an afternoon at the acme

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Two pretty young women and a very freaky-looking man (he looks freaky because no one -- well, hardly anyone -- has beautiful long hair like that anymore) are discussing their astrological charts over a carafe of white wine. He's a Scorpio. The woman with the frizzy auburn hair, a Virgo, isn't too impressed; in fact, she's a bit leery. But the other woman, dark eyes beaming, is elevated. "My moon sign is Scorpio. No wonder we get along so well." A common bond has been discovered and the discussion continues.

There's some kind of obvious charm about the man sitting not too far away, alone in the corner. He's not particularly good-looking or well built. But just to look at him you know -- you just know he's a loner and entirely by choice. There's an aura around him that tells you to stay away. He's not mean, but he's very private. He's nursing a San Miguel, three down now, judging by the debris in front of him, leafing through a Bay Guardian -- obviously nothing too interesting in there. He throws the paper down on the table, lights up a Camel, and throws his head back to absorb the rays.

On sunny Sunday afternoons, the deck is packed. Women clad in halter tops and sundresses and men in tee shirts and sandals gather here to socialize. It doesn't seem quite so serious. Occasionally, a guitar-plucking musician comes along to serenade the people and chant a few folksy tunes. Sometimes the music is good and the crowd is receptive; other times, well, it's easier to remain oblivious to it.

A serene ambience prevails on the double-deck patio behind the Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe on 24th Street. There are a few knots of people conversing, but mostly, individuals sit alone, reading or writing, sipping Anchor Steam Beer or Cappuccino or Dr. Brown's natural soda. Some just sit, eyes closed, daydreaming with faces pointed skyward, soaking up that lovely sun.

In the late morning, the patio is the main gathering spot for parents with children attending the nursery school around the corner. Shortly after noon, when school lets out, the children join the scene. "Mommy, buy me one of those big chocolate chip cookies -- oh, and a black cherry soda, puleez!" "Daddy, I'm starving. I want a hamburger. Take me to Herb's. Now! Now!"

Even though today is rather windy, it is blocked mostly by the surrounding fences. An occasional gust, however, disrupts the calm; newspapers snap open, an empty beer bottle topples onto a wooden spool table, and slightly annoyed sun worshippers open their eyes momentarily to check out the damage.

There are few familiar faces here today, which is rather unusual because a typical scene on the deck is comprised of a gathering of Noe Valley regulars. You know, the people you see on the street every day and after awhile you begin to nod or drop them a cursory hello just for familiarity's sake and because it's become obvious that you're in this neighborhood together. But you don't really know them and you probably never will.

It's late afternoon now. The crowd is slowly dispersing. The Virgo lady and her Scorpio friends left an hour ago. The charismatic loner drifted away quietly after a fourth San Miguel. The deck is nearly empty now. The whining children, the sun-lovers and the philosophers are all gone.

Most of them will be back tomorrow.

BY CLAUDIA G. HYSLOP

Noe's Gift from the Gods

Long before the city of San Francisco was founded, according to reliable Indian sources, what is now Noe Valley was created to provide the Gods with a modicum of relief from a quarrelsome couple.

The couple lived on the area's highest mountain peak, overlooking the City, and had the nasty habit of constantly bickering.

When the Gods could stand no more, they split the peak with horrible lightning and thunder. They banished the man into the freshly-made Eureka Valley, and the woman to Noe Valley.

It was on June 29 in the year that America declared her independence from England that Francisco Palou Jose Moraga raised the Spanish flag over the Mission Dolores. With him were 193 Spanish colonists, including the family of Jose de Jesus Noe.

Noe served as the area's last alcalde -- a mayor -- just before California was admitted into the union in 1846. His

loyalty as a Spanish colonist did not go unrewarded.

In 1845 Spanish Governor Pio Pico gave Noe an ample tract of 4,443 acres of land. The tract extended from Twin Peaks south almost to what is now Daly City.

Noe became one of the biggest ranchoeros around, but was not without problems. After California joined the union, many disputes flared between the Spanish and Americans over who owned what land. Noe's San Miguel rancho was one of those being contested.

Despite the dispute and the pitiful land transfer records kept by the Spanish government, Noe successfully fought the right to his claim before the U. S. Land Commission. The year was 1853.

Enough was enough, however, for Noe. About that time, he sold 4,300 acres of the tract to millionaire brothers for the tidy sum of \$200,000.

Noe lived on the remaining acres until his death. He is buried at the Mission Dolores at Dolores and 17th Streets.

commercial establishments, including live music night-clubs. The neighborhood associations have petitioned for a downzoning to R-3C, which would prevent new business from occupying any upper floor units. Night-clubs also would be barred. However, any businesses now using upper units would not be affected.

There is a catch if the Planning commission adopts the rezoning classification that the Associations want. It may prove so successful that businesses, barred from moving vertically, may move horizontally, spreading beyond the boundaries of 24th street and spill into the residential areas of 23rd and 22nd streets as well as the cross streets. It's a point that should be well considered.

But in the crammed public hearing session three fourths of the witnesses were in favor of the down-zoning proposal. "Of all the areas in the City that I know, few are real urban communities," offered Bart Deamer, a member of Friends of Noe Valley. "It has diversity, which is necessary for a community." The rezoning would maintain a healthy balance of both residential and commercial uses" and "preserve Noe Valley as a pleasant place to live and shop," the proponents said.

Others weren't too sure about the proposal. Bob St. Clair, the ex-Forty-niner football player, and one-time San Mateo County Supervisor, owns St. Clair's liquor store on 24th street at Sanchez. "There's a great deal of fear about what this all means," he told the planning commission, speaking as president of the Noe Valley Merchants' Association. John McCarthy was firmly opposed to it. He owns the Shell Gas Station property on 24th Street. It's been in the family for three generations. The rezoning would make it impossible for him to remodel the station, he said, something it'll need in about four years. The rezoning is going to cost him money.

The commission itself took a diplomatic stand on the request. It decided to take no action on the matter until a thorough study can be made of the rezoning's impact on the neighborhood and another on how it will affect commercial and industrial property. But even that delay—which could take up to a year—gave the neighborhood associations a small victory. The planning commission gave 24th street the strict R-3C zoning—no new business on the upper floors—until it can reach a final decision. The supporters of the proposal retreated to their favorite 24th street hangouts for a celebration nip.

Community Services

Women's Health Center

BY SARAH M. SMITH

Many women go through life without ever getting to know that part of their bodies euphemistically referred to as "DOWN THERE": their genitalia. Ironically, a woman's doctor, husband or lover often has more knowledge and therefore control of her sexual anatomy than she does.

The social taboos against self-examination have been so strong that women have relied on the diagrams on the Tampax instructions or a hasty peek at the "besver" shots in a porno magazine for knowledge of their bodies. The vagina has been seen as foreign and forbidding territory.

It has only been in recent years that women have begun to reclaim their bodies and learn what is normally healthy for them.

One of the pioneers in the movement to restore women's bodies to themselves—the self-health movement—is the San Francisco Women's Health Center, located at 3789 24th Street.

A non-profit organization operated collectively since 1971, the Center offers a variety of health education services for women:

--The Monday Night Introduction to Self-Examination. On the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., you can

drop in the Center for a lesson in how to do your own cervical examination. The cost is \$1.50

--A Six-Session Course in Self-Health. These classes include learning cervical, bi-manual and breast examinations and discussion of the menstrual cycle, common infections, birth control and the health care system. Cost: \$18. Call the Center (282-6999) for details.

--The Birth Center. If you have questions relating to pregnancy or the birth process, call or drop in the Center Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Birth Center also provides ongoing discussion groups and six-session workshops for pregnant women and couples.

--The Menopause Center. Several women have organized workshops covering the physiology of menopause, the myths and personal conceptions of menopause, methods of treatment, and the problems and needs of older women. For information call or drop in 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

--Film: "Self-Health". In 1974 members of the Center, with the aid of four women filmmakers, produced a 30-minute, 16 millimeter film which shows women learning to do cervical, breast and bi-manual exams. The film is available for rental at \$20 to women's groups and \$40 to institutions.

--Medical Information Referrals. In addition to its lending library and selling literature the Center offers women a referral service to doctors and clinics in the Bay Area.

Realizing the importance of sharing what they have learned with all women, the 11 women who make up the core staff of the Center have devoted considerable energy to community outreach.

For the past year the Center has operated an "extension" within the OB/GYN Department of San Francisco General Hospital. Through a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, three members of the Center hold classes and do individual counseling in basic self-health, pregnancy and birth, and menopause at the hospital.

In 1975 under a state-funded grant, the group provided self-health training to women from Hunters Point, the Fillmore and the Mission, enabling these women to conduct similar training sessions in their own communities.

Aside from such grants, the Center exists on income from classes, presentations and donations. Most staff members are volunteers, receiving no pay.

Child Abuse Council

BY BILL HILL

A Noe Valley-based social organization established in November 1973 to support and coordinate the efforts of those involved in the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse is in danger of losing its funding. The Child Abuse Council, funded by the Rosenberg Foundation, a private organization, is scheduled to receive financial support only through the end of December.

Kathy Baxter, executive director of the council said "We recently lost a possible grant to a program involved in aiding battered women. What a lot of the financial people don't seem to understand is that there is overlapping in the family service programs—where there are battered women there are quite often abused children."

She strongly hinted at another problem. Programs go in and out of fashion. Child abuse yesterday, battered women today.

With all of the uncertainty, the council continues to offer a variety of services that are essential to the community:

MDC, the Multi-Disciplinary Committees are the case conferences of the council. These committees confer around families where there are questions of communications or a need to clarify legal, medical, social or therapeutical aspects of the case.

TALK. Telephone Aid in Living with Kids provides direct support to families who need assistance coping with the complexities of parenting. The service is staffed primarily by volunteers who have completed an intensive ten-week training course in preparation for the demands of telephone counseling and responding in crisis situations. The telephone service is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The Talk Hotline is located at 1304-A Castro Street and the telephone number is 826-0800.

Consultation. Psychiatric, psychological and social work consultation is available to member organizations who are working with clients where the potential exists for harm to children.

Legislation. In liaison with elected representatives, the council keeps abreast of legis-

lation in child welfare and informs members of bills affecting the lives of families and children.

In reporting cases of child abuse, the current law requires mandatory telephone and written reporting of actual or suspected child abuse, sexual molestation or situations of inflicted physical or mental suffering.

After a call is received at Children's Emergency Services - 665-0757, a team of a Protective Service Worker and Juvenile Probation Officer will respond within 24 hours to the referral. If an emergency situation, they may also respond immediately. The team will forward the report (required by law) to the Police Department.

The Child Abuse Council membership has grown to over 350 members, who represent various professions, agencies, institutions, community organizations, abusive parents and abused children. The Council has brought together as divergent a constituency as possible to provide an exploration of attitudes, and sharing of ideas.

CALENDAR

MAY

MONDAYS

Quilting Classes, 4 classes beginning May 9th., evenings, The Needle's Eye, 4071 24th Street. \$20.00 for four classes.

Making Gauze Garments, May 9th., mornings, The Needle's Eye, \$5.00.

Noe Valley Merchants' Association Meeting, Noe Valley Branch Public Library, 451 Jersey Street, Second Monday every month.

Introduction to Self-Exam, first Monday each month, San Francisco Women's Health Center, 7:30 p.m., 3789 24th Street, \$1.50.

Pool Tournaments, The Jury Room, 4026 24th Street, 7:00 p.m. \$2.00 entry fee.

TUESDAYS

Self-Health Class For Women, April 26th through May 31st, San Francisco Women's Health Center, 3789 24th Street, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. \$3.00/class.

Western Shirt Workshop, May 3rd, evening, The Needle's Eye \$5.00. Making Gauze Garments, May 17, morning, The Needle's Eye \$5.00.

Foosball Tournaments, The Jury Room, 4026 24th Street, 8:00 p.m., \$2.00 entry fee.

WEDNESDAYS

Russian Igolochkoy Embroidery, Four Classes beginning May 11th, The Needle's Eye, \$20.00.

Lesbians, Prostitutes and the Law, discussion with Margo St. James, Marya Grambs and Carol Morton, May 11th, Noe Valley Branch Library, 7:30 p.m. Free.

THURSDAYS

Vest Workshop, May 12th, evening. The Needle's Eye, \$5.00

Friends of Noe Valley Meeting, Noe Valley Branch Library, second Thursday every month. Call 282-1071 for details and schedules.

Poetry Readings, Noe Valley Branch Library, second and fourth Thursdays, 7:45 p.m. Open microphone plus guest poets.

FRIDAYS

An Evening of Clairvoyance with Ivan St. John, Trance Lecture or Guided Meditation, The Philosopher's Stone, 3814 24th Street, 8:15 p.m., Donation \$3.00.

Live Jazz, The Connection, 1199 Church, 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Wine Tasting, Victorian Wine and Spirits, 3821 24th Street, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., 25¢ to 40¢ per 1/4 glass. Instruction on various vintages supplied by owner.

SATURDAYS

May 7 On The Verge, SECRET PLACES, Bethany Church, Clipper and Sanchez, 8:00 p.m., \$2.50 donation.

Jean Vigo's L'ATLANTE, France, 1902, The Noe Valley Cinema, James Lick Auditorium, 25th at Noe, 8:00 p.m., \$1.00 for members, \$1.50 general admission.

May 14 Agnes Varda's LE BONHEUR, France, 1965, James Lick Auditorium. See May 7 for details.

May 21 Oscar Fishinger's COMPOSITION IN BLUE, Germany, 1934, James Lick Auditorium. See May 7 for details.

May 28 Jaromil Jires' VALERIE AND HER WEEK OF WONDERS, Czechoslovakia, 1971, James Lick Auditorium, See May 7 for details.

From the World Series to the Little Leagues, baseball is still the All American Sport, and Noe Valley is no exception to the rule. Every Spring, millions of Americans flock to the parks in anticipation of seeing their heros hit one over the fence and enjoying a "Hy-Grade Ballpark Frank".

So why, I ask you, do the accomplished and enthusiastic Noe Valley softball teams have so much trouble getting fans to their games? It isn't because the games aren't exciting, or that the community doesn't care, it isn't because of the sometime frigid weather, it is simply a matter of poor communications. It is my intention to remedy this situation.

The caliber of ball played by the Noe Valley teams is not exactly Major League potential, but then again it's not making Abner Doubleday revolve in his crypt, either.

The Jury Room, located at 4026-24th Street, sponsors two teams. The senior team, who have been together for about eight years and call themselves the "Noe Valley Jury Room Mets" play in the "A" League, the toughest division in San Francisco softball, and are as tight a team as you could hope to see.

They opened the season against McGowan's, a team comprised of the best hitters from two of last years hottest teams in the "A" League, and held them to two runs while scoring five themselves for the victory. They lost their second game 19 to 14 in a heartbreaker that went into extra innings.

A classic example of mis-matches is evidenced by the placing of the Jury Room's junior team, "The Misfits", in the "D" League. Although only in their first season, they breezed through their first two games with landslide victories of 14 to 3 and 24 to 0.

Impressive as this may seem, we must keep in mind that the majority of "D" League teams are just slightly better than rejects from Frog Baseball. So although the Misfits are enjoying their moment of glory now, it may very well be short lived since a game between them and Finnegan's Rippers is pending, and for the Misfits, it could be quite a humbling experience.

The "Rippers", sponsored by Finnegan's Wake at 4045-24th Street are in the "C" League (where the Misfits no doubt should be) and seem to be taking it by storm, winning their first two games by scores of 19 to 5 and 19 to 7. This is their second season as a team and they should pick up another trophy by year's end.

Patch County, at 25th and Church Streets has a team called, aptly enough, "Patch County". Although a little rusty in their first year, they have great potential and could become one of the areas better teams. They've won their first two games in the "D" League 19 to 5 and 12 to 8 and could very well meet the Misfits in the playoffs.

the
JURY
ROOM

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